

Several years back i stopped listining to commercial radio and watching commercial television because: 1) i wanted to hear/see music and news, not ads. 2) whatever music or news i did hear/see was of such poor quality that it wasn't worth listening to.

This left me in a bit of a condondrum, because outside of commercial media outlets there are very few sources left for obtaining information. my concern is that, with an increased consolidation of media ownership, quality and diversity of news programming and entertainment will suffer. what truly outrages me, however, is that--regardless of my own opinion--media ownership deregulation is an issue that will profoudnly impact everyday life for all americans for a long time to come, and the commission heretofore seems to have been abysmally inadequate at informing the american public about what is being considered. such choices as are about to be made should be done in the context of extensive public debate ACROSS THE COUNTRY. I read newspapers often, usually a mix of the New York Times and my local papers so as to balance editorial and information sources. not once, until a "diane reem show" earlier this week, had i heard about this debate, even though it's been going on since at least last fall! that show that i mentioned aired on the local NPR affiliate at midnight on a weeknight--hardly a forum for popular dissemination of informtion crucial to our democratic system. i don't own a computer, and i check my email at the library when i can (for this comment i am using a public computer), and i'm not the only american who doesn't rely on the internet for my primary source of information, and if i were to have missed that radio program the other night, i'd have had no idea that this was going on. perhaps i've already found out too late, but i hope this isn't the case.

thank you for reading this and providing me and other americans the opportunity to share in this debate; i just wish that this issue could get the appropriate public debate that it deserves. perhaps it will yet. the american people deserve better from their government, especially when it comes to the future of THEIR (publicly owned) airwaves.

devon jenkins.